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APR 02 2007

JBH:cmw 04/02/07

Attorney Ref. No. 739-71454-01

**KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP**

16th Floor World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97204 U.S.A.

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**PLEASE DELIVER DIRECTLY TO: Customer Corrections****Fax No.: 571-273-8300****Total No. Pages: 15** including this cover sheet

**Message:** Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application is a Request for Corrected Official Filing Receipt and attached Exhibits A-C. If you do not receive all pages or if you have problems receiving this transmission, please call Christine M. Wolfe at (503) 595-5300.

In re application of: Paul Raymond Smith

Application No.: 10/551,270

Filed: May 30, 2006

Confirmation No. 6421

For: A SPHERICAL BEARING ARRANGEMENT AND  
METHODS

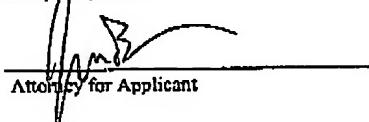
Examiner: Justin Mitchell Krause

Art Unit: 3682

Attorney Reference No. 739-71454-01

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referred to as being transmitted herewith are being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via 571-273-8300 on April 2, 2007.



Attorney for Applicant

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Office of Initial Patent Examination

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

PO BOX 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CORRECTED OFFICIAL FILING RECEIPT**

Applicants have received the official Filing Receipt for the application referenced above, a copy of which (with requested correction shown) is attached as Exhibit A.

The Filing Receipt contains the following errors in the name of the title:

**ERROR**

Spherical Bearing Arrangement

Jerome Gourdl, Lincoln, UNITED  
KINGDOM**CORRECT INFORMATION**A Spherical Bearing Arrangement And  
MethodsJerome Gourdol, Lincoln, UNITED  
KJNGDOM

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS TRANSMISSION IS CONFIDENTIAL AND ONLY FOR THE INTENDED RECIPIENT IDENTIFIED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION OR USE OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS UNLAWFUL. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE DESTROY IT AND DO NOT REPRODUCE IT. IF YOU RECEIVED THIS TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US, AND RETAIN NO COPY.

Attached as Exhibit B is the Preliminary Amendment submitted on September 28, 2005, amending the title to read: "A Spherical Bearing Arrangement and Methods."

Attached as Exhibit C is a copy of the signed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney showing the correct spelling of the inventor's name.

Applicants request that the identified errors be corrected and that a new official Filing Receipt be issued.

No fee should be required for this filing. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fee that may be required in connection with this filing, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4550.

Please call the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By

  
Jeffrey B. Haendler  
Registration No. 43,652

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600  
121 S.W. Salmon Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
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cc: Docketing

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS TRANSMISSION IS CONFIDENTIAL AND ONLY FOR THE INTENDED RECIPIENT IDENTIFIED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION OR USE OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS UNLAWFUL. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE (COLLECT), RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US, AND RETAIN NO COPY.

PAGE 2/15 \* RCVD AT 4/2/2007 5:54:08 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-3/10 \* DNI:2738300 \* CSID:5035955301 \* DURATION (mm:ss):04-18

Page 1 of 3

Forrester Ketley/JBH



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 United States Patent and Trademark Office  
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. Box 1450  
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APPL NO	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
10/551,270	05/30/2006	3682	1030	739-71454-01	2	20	2

CONFIRMATION NO. 6421

24197  
 KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP  
 121 SW SALMON STREET  
 SUITE 1600  
 PORTLAND, OR 97204

PREVIOUSLY DOCUMENTED

## FILING RECEIPT



"OC000000020871590"

Date Mailed: 10/18/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

## Applicant(s)

Paul Raymond Smith, Lincoln, UNITED KINGDOM;  
 Jerome Gourdin, Lincoln, UNITED KINGDOM;  
 Gourdin

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 24197.

## Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/GB04/01295 03/25/2004

## Foreign Applications

UNITED KINGDOM 0307425.9 03/31/2003

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 10/17/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is US10/551,270

Projected Publication Date: 01/25/2007

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

## EXHIBIT A

4 Spherical bearing arrangement and methods

Preliminary Class

384

**PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process simplifies the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but does not result in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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**LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER  
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184  
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15****GRANTED**

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR

1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

**NOT GRANTED**

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time. If the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form, Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

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JBH:lm 09/28/05 432505 P17501US  
PATENT

APR 02 2007

Attorney Reference Number 739-71454-01  
Express Mail Label No. EV629077308US  
Date of Deposit: September 28, 2005

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Smith and Gourdon  
 Application No. Not yet assigned.  
 Filed: Herewith  
 Confirmation No. Not yet assigned.  
 For: A SPHERICAL BEARING  
 ARRANGEMENT  
 Examiner: Not yet assigned.  
 Art Unit: Not yet assigned.  
 Attorney Reference No. 739-71454-01

MAIL STOP PCT  
 COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. BOX 1450  
 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV629077308US in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP PCT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Attorney or Agent  
for Applicant(s)Date Mailed September 28, 2005

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2.**

**Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3.**

**Remarks begin on page 6.**

## EXHIBIT B

JBH:am 09/28/05 432505 P17501US  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 739-71454-01  
Express Mail Label No. EV629077308US  
Date of Deposit: September 28, 2005

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title of the application with the following:

--A SPHERICAL BEARING ARRANGEMENT AND METHODS--

On page 1 immediately following the title, please insert the following paragraph:

--This is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/GB2004/001295, filed March 25, 2004, which in turn claims the benefit of Great Britain Patent Application No. GB 0307425.9, filed March 31, 2003.--

Please insert the Abstract, submitted herewith on a separate page, as page 7 at the end of the application.

JBH:lam 09/28/05 432505 P17501US  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 739-71454-01  
Express Mail Label No. EV629077308US  
Date of Deposit: September 28, 2005

### Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a spherical bearing comprising the steps of:

swaging an inner housing onto a ball to curve the inner housing around the ball and surround the equator of the ball;

providing an annular elastomeric portion around an outer surface of the inner housing, the annular elastomeric portion also curving around the ball and surrounding the equator of the ball; and

swaging an outer housing onto the elastomeric portion.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step act of providing the annular elastomeric portion around the outer surface of the inner housing comprises bonding an elastomeric portion to the outer surface of the inner housing.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the elastomeric portion is applied by an injection process.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A spherical bearing arrangement having a bearing housing and a ball located therein, the bearing housing having an outer housing, an inner housing and an annular elastomeric portion sandwiched between the outer and inner housings, wherein:

the outer housing has an outer surface to allow the outer housing to be securely held in an interference fit hole;

the housings and the annular elastomeric portion surround the equator of the ball; and the inner housing and the annular elastomeric portion are curved around the ball.

6. (Previously Presented) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein the elastomeric portion is bonded to the inner housing.

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PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 739-71454-01  
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Date of Deposit: September 28, 2005

7. (Previously Presented) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein the elastomeric portion is bonded to the inner housing by an injection process.

8. (Currently Amended) A bearing arrangement according to any one of Claims 5 to 7 Claim 5, wherein the elastomeric portion is bonded to the outer housing.

9. (Currently Amended) A bearing arrangement according to any one of Claims 5 to 8 Claim 5, wherein a liner is provided on the inner housing in contact with the ball.

10. (Previously Presented) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 9, wherein the liner is a self-lubricating liner.

11. (Currently Amended) A bearing arrangement according to any one of claims 5 to 8 Claim 5, wherein the inner housing and ball are both manufactured from metal and the inner housing is in direct contact with the ball.

12. (Currently Amended) A bearing arrangement according to any one of Claims 5 to 11 Claim 5, wherein the elastomeric portion is rubber.

13. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein the elastomeric portion is bonded to the outer housing.

14. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 7, wherein the elastomeric portion is bonded to the outer housing.

15. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein a liner is provided on the inner housing in contact with the ball.

16. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 7, wherein a liner is provided on the inner housing in contact with the ball.

JBH:lam 09/28/03 432505 P17501US  
PATENT

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17. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein a liner is provided on the inner housing in contact with the ball.

18. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein the inner housing and ball are both manufactured from metal and the inner housing is in direct contact with the ball.

19. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 7, wherein the inner housing and ball are both manufactured from metal and the inner housing is in direct contact with the ball.

20. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the inner housing and ball are both manufactured from metal and the inner housing is in direct contact with the ball.

21. (New) A bearing arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein the elastomeric portion is rubber.

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Remarks

By this amendment, the specification has been updated to reflect prior related applications, to insert the abstract on a separate page, and to amend certain claims of the international application. In particular, claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 are rewritten to depend from a single claim. Also, new claims 13-21 have been added.

Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

If any issues remain to be discussed prior to examination, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey B. Haendler  
Registration No. 43,652

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## A SPHERICAL BEARING ARRANGEMENT AND METHODS

### ABSTRACT

A spherical bearing arrangement (1) having has a bearing housing (3) and a ball (4) located therein, with the bearing housing (3) having an outer housing (5), an inner housing (6) and an annular elastomeric portion (7) sandwiched between the housings (5,6), and a method Methods of making the same comprising the steps of bearing arrangement comprise: swaging an inner housing (6) onto a ball (4); providing an annular elastomeric portion (7) around an outer surface of the inner housing (6); and swaging an outer housing onto the elastomeric portion (7).

JBL:lam 07/11/05 -1940748.doc P17500US

Express Mail Label No. EV629077308US  
Attorney Ref. No. 739-71454-01**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION****As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:****My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.****I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled A SPHERICAL BEARING ARRANGEMENT, the specification of which**

- is attached hereto.
- was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
- was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/GB2004/001295, filed on March 25, 2004, and as amended under PCT Articles 19 on September 1, 2004.
- and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).
- with amendments through \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

**I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.****I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. If this is a continuation-in-part application filed under the conditions specified in 35 U.S.C. § 120 which discloses claims and subject matter in addition to that disclosed in the prior copending application, I further acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.****I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the applications(s) on which priority is claimed:**

Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Claim Priority?
GB 0307425.9	Great Britain	31/March/2003	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:**

Application Number	Filing Date

**EXHIBIT C**

JRH:am 07/11/05 ~1940748.doc PI7500US

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Attorney Ref. No. 739-71454-01

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Number	Filing Date	Status: patented, pending, abandoned
--------------------	-------------	--------------------------------------

I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the customer number provided below to prosecute this application, to file a corresponding international application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

**Customer Number 24197**

I hereby grant the law firm of Klarquist Sparkman, LLP, the power to insert on this Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney any further information which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office for submitting this document.

Address all telephone calls to Jeffrey B. Haendler at telephone number (503) 226-7391.

Address all correspondence to the address associated with **Customer Number 24197**, which address is:

Klarquist Sparkman, LLP  
121 S.W. Salmon Street, Suite 1600  
Portland, OR 97204

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of First Inventor:	Paul Raymond Smith
-------------------------	--------------------

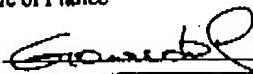
Residence:	Lincoln, UNITED KINGDOM
Mailing Address:	c/o NMB-MINEBEA UK Ltd. Doddington Road Lincoln, LN6 3RA UNITED KINGDOM
Citizenship:	United Kingdom
Inventor's Signature	*Paul Smith*
Date	7/7/05

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - PAGE 2 of 3

JBLclaim 08/24/05 P17500US1Declaration.doc P17500US

Express Mail Label No. EV629077308US  
Attorney Ref. No. 739-71454-01

Name of Second Inventor: Jerome Gourdon  
Residence: Lincoln, UNITED KINGDOM  
Mailing Address: c/o NMB-MINEBEA UK Ltd.  
Doddington Road  
Lincoln, LN6 3RA  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Citizenship: Republic of France

Inventor's Signature 

Date 03/07/05 -

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - PAGE 3 of 3